2007-04760/

TIMBER INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Hon. W. R. Ross,
Minister of Lands, Victoria, B.C.

SIR,—I beg to hand you a report of the Timber Department for the year ending December 31st, 1911.

The past year has been one of prosperity for the lumbermen of British Columbia. The marked steadiness of the lumber market enabled the mills to operate continuously during the entire year, with the exception of those of the Interior, which have been obliged to close down during November and December. This was caused by the dullness of the lumber market on the American side, and the American mills dumping their surplus cut on the markets of the North-west at less than cost.

I believe those conditions have changed, however, and I look for better times for the Interior mills.

TIMBER INSPECTOR'S OFFICE, VANCOUVER.

Royalty receipts for the year	$418,636 92
Tax receipts for the year	25,696 16
Total amount received	$444,333 08

The collections for the year 1911 exceed those of 1910 by $50,734.95.

Number of officers:—

1 Inspector.
1 Accountant.
1 Stenographer.
1 Assistant Inspector, Nelson.
1 " Kaslo.
1 " Kamloops.
1 " Vancouver.
1 Acting Inspector, Prince Rupert.

ASSISTANT TIMBER INSPECTORS.

I am pleased to inform you that the Assistant Timber Inspectors have worked together with a will, and have rolled up a record for the year's collections.

The Boundary District from Rossland to the Similkameen River has been added to the territory covered by J. R. Martin, Assistant Timber Inspector, Nelson, B.C., while the Cariboo District from Clinton to Fraser Lake and the South Fork of the Fraser has been placed under R. Trinder, Assistant Timber Inspector, Kamloops, B.C.

COLLECTIONS.

Received from the Assistant Timber Inspectors for the year 1911:—

A. Carney, East Kootenay	$65,247 14
J. R. Martin, West Kootenay	56,560 68
R. Trinder, Okanagan and Cariboo	31,844 13

SUPERVISOR OF SCALERS, VANCOUVER.

1 Supervisor, Vancouver.
1 Assistant Supervisor, Nelson.
1 Official Log Scaler, Victoria.

	Feet.	
Total scale for the year 1911, Coast District		619,152,386
Total scaled by Acting-Scalers, Interior		296,836,042
Besides the above scale, there was cut from the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway lands by the		
Canadian Western Lumber Co.	59,011,572	
International Logging Co., Vancouver Island	10,000,000	
Canadian Puget Sound Lumber Co.	18,000,000	
Small mills on Vancouver Island	18,000,000	
Victoria Lumber & Manufacturing Co.	39,000,000	
		144,011,572
Total		1,060,000,000

The Coast District shows a decline from last year's scale of 21,215,406 feet.

Number of logging camps operating on Provincial timber lands	350
Number of men employed in camps	8,000
Number of mills in the Province operating on timber cut from Provincial lands	250
Number of men employed in mills	7,500
Total amount of timber cut but not manufactured in the Province	47,000,000 feet.
Total amount of timber manufactured into lumber in British Columbia	1,013,000,000 feet.
Average cost of production per thousand feet	$15
Total cost of cut for year	$15,195,000

TABLE OF COSTS.

Average cost of stumpage	$1 50
" " logging	6 50
" " towing	1 00
" " manufacturing and marketing	5 50
" " Government dues	50
	$15 00

LAUNCHES.

3 patrol launches.

3 captains, salary	$1,200 00	each per year.
3 engineers, "	900 00	"
1 cook, "	600 00	per year.
1 cruiser, "	1,200 00	"

HAND-LOGGER LICENCES.

One hundred and forty-three hand-logger licences have been issued during the year.

TIMBER EXPORTED.

Forty-seven million feet of timber have been exported to American mills. A change has been made in the system of granting permits for the export of timber cut from Crown grants, and these permits are now returnable to the captain of the patrol launch at the boundary-line, who issues a receipt for same.

We have cleaned up a lot of old outstanding accounts, and hope to have the rest wiped

NAMES OF THE OFFICERS OF THE TIMBER INSPECTOR'S OFFICE, AND WHERE LOCATED.

G. D. McKay, Timber Inspector	Vancouver.
Jos. Mackay, Accountant	"
G Dickinson, Stenographer	"
A. H. McLean, Assistant Inspector	"
J. R. Martin, "	Nelson.
A. Carney, "	Kaslo.
R. Trinder, "	Kamloops.
Capt. E. McCoskrie, Acting-Inspector	Prince Rupert.

SUPERVISOR OF SCALER'S STAFF.

R. J. Hamilton, Supervisor of Scalers	Vancouver.
T. W. Mouat, Assistant Supervisor of Scalers	Nelson.
D. A. Galbraith, Official Scaler	Victoria.
A. L. Bryant, "	McRae's Bay.
Alex. Garrett, "	New Westminster.
J. M. Hillis, "	Vancouver.
E. R. Thomas, "	"
Jas. McLean, "	"
G. R. McKay, "	"
A. E. Dunning, "	"
H. T. Wright, "	"
J. A. McRae, "	"
J. F. Marshall, "	Nanaimo.
D. S. Lothian, "	Ocean Falls.
Roy L. Moore, "	On board launch "R. J. Skinner."

PATROL LAUNCHES.

Launch "R. J. Skinner," patrols north of Jervis Inlet, in Sayward and Rupert Districts. Captain, J. Kidd; engineer, J. Woodbury; cook, J. Woodbury; cruiser, A. M. Black.

Launch "Kiora," patrols the east side of Vancouver Island and Gulf Islands. Captain P. Nye; engineer, S. Church.

Launch "Alanbee," patrols New Westminster District and Islands. Captain M. K. Morrison; engineer, H. Sacred.

REPORT ON FOREST PROTECTION.

BY THE SUPERVISORS.

Before the opening of the fire season of 1911, orders were issued by the Minister of Lands to the Divisional Wardens of the Mainland and Vancouver Island to begin the campaign against the dangerous accumulations of slash that are threatening everywhere to convert some of our forest districts into an almost continuous expanse of fire-traps. During April these Wardens conducted a series of slash-burnings at chosen dangerous places, partly in order to save the expense of patrolling these places during the summer, but chiefly in order to demonstrate by object-lessons that the burning of slash can be carried out, both safely and at moderate cost, in many sections of the Province. The experiments proved extremely successful, many private owners of timber being induced by our Divisional Wardens to clean up old slashings that were exposed to the risk of fire. Attention should be drawn, in this connection, to the agitation against the neglect of the slashing evil in many of the States of the Union that has resulted in some vigorous legislation already, and that is gradually convincing the operators that in dangerous places it is better to burn slash under proper control than to let it take fire at the wrong time by accident.

For the close season of the year the fire-preventive staff of the previous summer was almost doubled in numbers and reorganized. The Province was divided into two—a Supervisor and an Assistant Supervisor being placed in charge of the Upper Country, and the other Supervisor controlling the Coast districts and Northern British Columbia. These two sections were subdivided into ten divisions, each in charge of an Inspector (or Divisional Warden), with headquarters at Victoria, Vancouver, Vernon, Revelstoke, Fernie, Cranbrook, Nelson, Grand Forks, Kitselas, and Barkerville. A network of patrol was maintained by the appointment of 110 District Wardens acting under the divisional men. Six launches patrolled the timbered water-front of the islands and inlets between Vancouver and Victoria and Alert Bay.

Though weather conditions were favourable, the closeness of the new patrols had a powerful effect in reducing the damage from forest fires, since all but a few of them were nipped in the bud by the prompt arrival of a Local Warden. The statistics of the season's fires are given below.

Apart from many matters now dealt with by the Forest Bill, the chief needs of the Province in the matter of fire-prevention are permanent improvements. The wandering patrolman, who is sometimes hard to find when wanted in an emergency, has had his efficiency vastly increased in many sections of the West by the establishment of field-telephone systems to which he may connect his portable line and instrument; by the cutting-out of fire lines and trails; by signal systems worked from look-out stations placed in commanding situations, and in many other ways. Money must be expended upon such up-to-date improvements if fire-control is to be assured in British Columbia.

STATISTICS OF SEASON'S FIRES.

District.	With Expense Fires.	Without Expense Fires.	Total Expenses.
Eburne	11	1	8 244 85
South Vancouver	4	....	29 50
New Westminster	3	....	222 50
White Rock	1	....	386 15
Langley	1	2	2 00
Abbotsford	1	8	18 50
Chilliwhack	1	1	175 65
Hope	3	1	27 00
Divisional Fire Warden	2	11	40 40
Steamboat Mountain	2	....	129 75
Harrison Hot Springs	....	....	....
Mission	....	3	....
North Vancouver	7	....	141 00
"	1	1	78 40
Bowen Island	3	1	70 25
Breckendale	1	1	259 35
Ponder Harbour	6	4	863 60
Powell River	....	5	....
Hernot Bay	7	4	913 85
Rock Bay	2	6	47 30
Port Harvey	....	1	....
Bella Coola	2	....	321 80
Skidegate	4	3	132 65
Atlin	....	....	....
Kitsalas	10	2	1,459 50
94-Mile	6	....	356 20
Hazelton	4	....	233 25
Aldermere	5	1	59 00
François Lake	....	....	....
Lillooet	3	....	133 45
Victoria District	17	17	583 20
Duncan	2	1	456 00
Cowichan Lake	7	....	938 00
Ladysmith	9	2	2,902 50
Parksville	6	8	1,147 20
Comox	4	4	167 50
Campbell River	2	1	12 30
Quatsino	3	....	67 50
Alberni	3	2	257 00
New Alberni	2	1	57 30
Port Renfrew	5	....	216 10
Battle Lake	3	....	1,439 50
Fort George (Divisional Fire Warden)	2	1	98 40
South Fort George	....	2	....
"	1	2	254 60
Quesnel	....	1	....
Barkerville	....	....	....
Quesnel Forks	....	1	....
Lac la Hache	....	....	....
Tete Jaune Cache, West	....	....	....
" East	....	....	....
Kitsumkalum Lake	7	2	663 35
Clinton	4	....	461 10
North Vancouver	....	2	....
Kitsalas	6	3	301 00
Vernon (Divisional Fire Warden)	2	....	123 10
Jameson Creek	3	....	218 00

STATISTICS OF SEASON'S FIRES—*Concluded.*

District.	With Expense Fires.	Without Expense Fires.	Total Expense.
Brought forward	190	109	$19,710 90
Peachland	....	1	....
Aspen Grove	5	....	426 00
Princeton	2	1	184 00
Fairview	....	....	....
Revelstoke (Divisional Fire Warden)	1	....	117 00
" " "	1	2	44 95
Big Bend Patrol	1	....	94 00
Nakusp	4	3	701 00
New Denver	4	....	532 00
Lardo	3	....	981 00
Trout Lake	4	....	45 00
North of Golden	1	....	301 00
Galena	....	....	....
Athalmer, East	....	....	....
"	....	....	....
Windermere	....	....	....
West Arrow Park	4	1	1,154 00
Jaffray	....	....	....
Elko	....	3	....
Waldo	....	....	....
Gold Creek	....	....	....
Fernie	2	....	161 90
Hosmer	....	7	....
Sparwood	....	....	....
New Michel	....	1	....
Corbin	....	....	....
Flat Head Valley	....	....	....
Cranbrook (Divisional Fire Warden)	....	1	....
Moyie	1	....	33 70
Cranbrook, West	....	....	....
" East	....	....	....
Wycliffe	....	....	....
Marysville (Wasa)	....	....	....
Wardner	1	....	6 00
Kitchener	....	....	....
Creston	2	3	221 00
Procter	6	1	906 00
Nelson	4	1	292 35
Ymir	4	....	1,590 00
Waneta	....	....	....
Trail	3	1	1,436 50
Shields	....	2	....
Needles	1	....	178 40
Slocan	4	....	98 00
Kaslo	5	....	266 00
Greenwood	2	3	40 50
Grand Forks	....	....	....
Paulson	....	1	....
Carne	....	1	....
Rock Creek	1	....	10 20
Keremeos	....	....	....
	257	142	$29,406 60

EXPENDITURE.

CAUSES OF FOREST FIRES.

Unknown	142
Travellers, campers, prospectors, hunters, surveyors, tramps	67
Logging-engines, logging camps, logging operations	37
Railway locomotives	26
Old fires started over again	25
Clearing fires without permit	24
Lightning	20
Clearing fires with permit	16
Indians	8
Road contractors	5
Railway construction and right-of-ways	4
Houses and shacks burnt	3
Government roadmen and foremen	3
Supposed incendiary	3
Steamboats	2
Traction-engines	2

MISCELLANEOUS.

Live wires broken, British Columbia Electric, North Vancouver	2
Blasting in Government quarry	1
" stumps	2
Men of Canadian Power Co., Pitt Meadows	1
Bottles lying in the sun	1
Sparks from house stove-pipe	1
Oil-lamp thrown from tent	1
An accident	2
Chinaman	1

I have, etc.,

WYNYARD C. GLADWIN.

Provincial Fire Warden's Office,
Vancouver, B.C.